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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1 – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A robot apparatus having emotion models consisting of a plurality of emotional behaviors and instinct models consisting of a plurality of desires, for generating action on the basis of the parameter value of each emotional behavior of the emotion model and/or the parameter value of each desire of the instinct model which are sequentially updated in accordance with prescribed conditions, comprising restricting means for restricting the number of the emotional behaviors or the desires used for generating the action so as to increase or decrease stepwise. .

14. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said restricting means increases and/or decreases stepwise the number of the emotional behaviors or the desires used for generating the action on the basis of the accumulation of prescribed stimulation which are externally applied and/or the lapse of time.

15. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 13, comprising: action generating means for generating the action on the basis of each of the parameter values of the emotional behaviors and/or the desires and a prescribed behavioral model; and behavioral model

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changing means for changing the behavioral model in the action generating means, to a behavioral model whose growth level is higher than that of the former, on the basis of the accumulation of prescribed stimulation which are externally applied and/or the lapse of time, and wherein said restricting means increases or decreases the number of the emotional behaviors and/or the desires used for generating the action depending on the change of the behavioral model by the behavioral model changing means.

16. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said emotion models include six emotional behaviors of joy, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust and fear as said emotional behaviors.

17. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said instinct models include four desires of exercise, affection, appetite and curiosity as said desires.

18. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising: emotional behavior and/or desire updating means for sequentially updating the parameter value of each emotional behavior and/or the parameter value of each desire, depending on corresponding sensitivity individually set to each emotional behavior and/or each desire, on the basis of the stimulation and/or the lapse of time; and sensitivity updating means for evaluating an environment and respectively updating the sensitivity corresponding to each emotional behavior and/or each desire on the basis of the evaluated result.

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19. (Original) A robot apparatus having emotion models consisting of a plurality of emotional behaviors and instinct models consisting of a plurality of desires, for generating action on the basis of the parameter value of each emotional behavior of the emotion model and/or the parameter value of each desire of the instinct model, comprising: emotional behavior and/or desire updating means for sequentially updating the parameter value of each emotional behavior and/or the parameter value of each desire, depending on corresponding sensitivity individually set to each emotional behavior and/or each desire, on the basis of externally applied stimulation and/or the lapse of time; and sensitivity updating means for evaluating an environment and respectively updating the sensitivity corresponding to each emotional behavior and/or each desire on the basis of the evaluated result.

20. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said sensitivity changing means evaluates the environment on the basis of the parameter value of each emotional behavior and/or the parameter value of each desire which are sequentially updated.

21. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said emotion models include six emotional behaviors of joy, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust and fear as said emotional behaviors.

22. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said instinct models include four desires of exercise, affection, appetite and curiosity as said desires.

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23. (Original) A control method for a robot apparatus having emotion models consisting of a plurality of emotional behaviors and instinct models consisting of a plurality of desires, for generating action on the basis of the parameter value of each emotional behavior of the emotion model and/or the parameter value of each desire of the instinct model which are sequentially updated in accordance with prescribed conditions, comprising: a first step of restricting the number of the emotional behaviors and/or the desires used for generating the action; and a second step of increasing or decreasing stepwise the number of the emotional behaviors and/or the desires used for generating the action.

24. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 23, wherein in the second step, the number of the emotional behaviors or the desires used for generating the action is increased stepwise on the basis of the accumulation of prescribed stimulation which are externally applied and/or the lapse of time.

25. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 23, wherein: said robot apparatus generates the action on the basis of each of the parameter values of the emotional behaviors and/or the desires and a prescribed behavioral model, and changes the behavioral model in the action generating means, to a behavioral model whose growth level is higher than that of the former, on the basis of the accumulation of prescribed stimulation which are externally applied and/or the lapse of time; and in the second step, the number of the emotional behaviors and/or the desires employed for generating the action is increased or decreased depending on the change of the behavioral model by the behavioral model changing

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means.

26. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said emotion models include six emotional behaviors of joy, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust and fear as said emotional behaviors.

27. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said instinct models include four desires of exercise, affection, appetite and curiosity as said desires.

28. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 23, wherein: the second step comprises, for each stage, an updating step of sequentially updating the parameter value of each emotional behavior and/or the parameter value of each desire, depending on corresponding sensitivity individually set to each emotional behavior and/or each desire, on the basis of the stimulation and/or the lapse of time; and a sensitivity updating step of evaluating an environment and respectively updating the sensitivity corresponding to each emotional behavior and/or each desire on the basis of the evaluated result.

29. (Original) A control method for a robot apparatus having emotion models consisting of a plurality of emotional behaviors and instinct models consisting of a plurality of desires, for generating action on the basis of the parameter value of each emotional behavior of the emotion model and/or the parameter value of each desire of the instinct model, comprising: a first step of updating the parameter value of each emotional behavior and/or the parameter value

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of each desire, depending on corresponding sensitivity individually set to each emotional behavior and/or each desire, on the basis of externally applied stimulation and/or the lapse of time; and a second step of evaluating an environment and respectively updating the sensitivity corresponding to each emotional behavior and/or each desire on the basis of the evaluated result.

30. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 29, wherein in the second step, the environment is evaluated on the basis of the parameter value of each emotional behavior and/or the parameter value of each desire which are sequentially updated.

31. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said emotion models include six emotional behaviors of joy, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust and fear as said emotional behaviors.

32. (Original) The control method for a robot apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said instinct models include four desires of exercise, affection, appetite and curiosity as said desires.

33 – 47. (Canceled)